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PROFILE

Sound advice

Poet, playwright, and performer, Penn Kemp goes back to school

WORDS ARE A CONSTANT source of wonder to Penn Kemp. And when the foremother of Canadian poetry can't find the right one, she's happy to make one—or break one—up. "I use sound to extend the emotionality of the words," she says. "For me, sound poetry expresses the inexpressible."

Penn has had plenty of practice pushing the boundaries of language over her 37-year career. She is the author of 25 books of poetry and drama, 10 sound opera and sound poetry CDs, Canada's first poetry CD-ROM, and six award-winning video poems. Her *Poem for Peace in Two Voices*, written in reaction to the attacks on New York's World Trade Center, has been translated into more than 125 languages.

Although unconventional, Kemp's craft is firmly rooted in the literary traditions she studied as an English major at the University of Western Ontario in the 1960s. This year, she's back on campus as Western's 2009/10 writer-in-residence.

"I never dreamt of coming back, but I'm extraordinarily happy to be ensconced here," the 65-year-old says. In September, after only a week on the job, Kemp's University College office still lacked a personal touch, but a steady stream of writers were already knocking on her door in search of advice.

Critiquing works-in-progress and mentoring emerging writers are only a small part of Kemp's mandate for the upcoming year. "She's working very hard to establish connections between the department and the community," says English department vice-chair, Manina Jones.

"It's important to hear her work aloud, so the idea of poetry in the flesh is something unique that she brings to this," says Jones. "A lot of writers exist on the page, but Penn exists as a living, breathing performer as well."

Lifting the words off the page is a crucial part of Kemp's art. She has presented her words to audiences around the globe, acting as a cultural ambassador in places like India, North Africa, Mexico, Brazil, and Europe. While poetry may have limited appeal at home, it is still prized elsewhere, she says. "In Islamic culture, for example, poetry is extremely valued."

Poetry is a window on the soul, Kemp says. "It can contain everything we are. It can contain where we're going. It can embrace the social media. It is the ultimate social media."

And despite belonging to a generation not known for their computer savvy, Kemp has embraced the Internet as a way to bring her words to a 21st-century audience. Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, and her own website are all great tools to help spread the word(s), she says.

So what advice does Kemp have for the next generation of poets? "Write, write, write, write, write, write. And then edit." Don't expect fame or fortune. "To be a poet you have to be the most practical person in the world," she says. "The public funding is really drying up, so you need to find a job that will pay you and leave space so you can write." NICOLE LAIDLER

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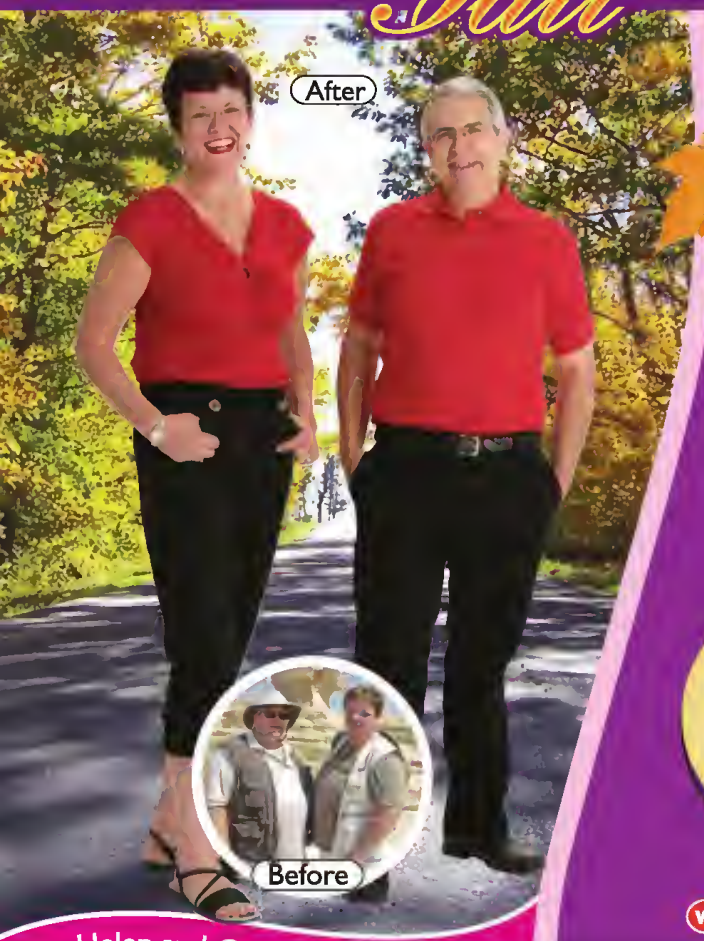

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ARTS

Act two

The ARTS Project raises the curtain on renovated space and a renovated future

THE ARTS PROJECT has taken a leap of faith towards a sustainable future. After facing near bankruptcy at the end of 2007, the downtown arts incubator is back on solid ground thanks to a strategic business plan, some ambitious renovations and a new partnership with Passionfool Theatre Company.

The transformation has been a labour of love for TAP board president, Bruce Johnson, a retired General Motors executive whose business savvy played an instrumental role in reversing the not-for-profit's fortunes. "It's a simple rule: revenues should exceed expenses," Johnson says. Of course, that's often easier said than done, especially in the arts.

When Johnson took the helm in May 2008, he quickly realized that a profitable business model required significant investment in the organization's home at 203 Dundas Street, a building that dates back to the 1860s.

Renovations, which began this spring, are almost complete and have cost more than $400,000. "We mortgaged our life," Johnson jokes, adding that the risk was carefully calculated. The improvements should generate more than enough new revenue to pay the bills, he says. "We want to be self-sufficient and we are on our way there now."

The street level gallery was divided into two distinct exhibition areas, which are booked solid through May, 2010. Unlike a traditional commercial gallery, TAP rents out its space to interested artists. "We can now run two simultaneous shows, which doubles our revenues," Johnson explains.

A new lighting system and the removal of a storage corridor and dropped ceiling give the entire area—now handicapped accessible—a modern, inviting feel. The box office was moved up front, making it easy for staff and volunteers to greet visitors and to admit curious art lovers during off hours.

Improvements to the second and third floor studio space have allowed TAP to tincrease the number of resident artists from five to 10. These upper levels were largely vacant before renovations began, Johnson says. Now, every inch of the building is being put to use.

Angela Fisher works in a new studio created out of a storefront storage area. "I had the opportunity to move upstairs, but as soon as I saw this space I fell in love with it," she says. "Because it's a storefront, it doubles as a gallery and I'm actually selling work out of here."

Building mutually beneficial relationships is at the heart of TAP's mission. That's why Johnson was delighted when London's Passionfool Theatre Company became the organization's resident theatre troupe on July 1. Passionfool will produce four plays at TAP's black box theatre this season.

"Gallery, theatre, studios. You can't find that combination of elements anywhere else in the city," Johnson says. "One by one, we're getting more and more people interested in this space." NICOLE LAIDLER

Kaitlyn Ayers

EVELYN SYMONS PHOTO

VOLUNTEERING

PLAYROOM TO BOARDROOM

KAITLYN AYERS ISN'T someone you'd expect to see around the boardroom table. Not because she's lacking in good ideas or expertise, but because she is 11 years old.

This will be her second year on the program advisory committee for the London Children's Connection, a non-profit organization providing childcare services and programs in schools, centres, and homes.

"It was decided last year to focus on enhancing the programming for the before- and after-school children," says program administrator Holly Gerrits. "We decided if the focus was to be on this age group it was integral to have their voices at the table."

Soft-spoken and articulate, Kaitlyn has suggested a number of initiatives, including purchasing video cameras to record activities and skits. "It would add to the experience knowing they have captured memories, and when students now in the program come back from high school to volunteer, the videos would be fun to watch," she says.

Will she always volunteer? "Probably, in some way. I'm happy and comfortable [in the boardroom] because I know I'm helping something or someone in a good way. And I am respected. I've seen my mom do it and I want to do it as I get older." EVELYN SYMONS

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THE PROPERTY: Perched on a hill above the corner of Richmond Street and Fanshawe Park Road, this historic former estate home of Richard and Jean Ivey is situated on 2.75 acres and is buffered by additional private parkland to the north.

THE HISTORY: Constructed by the Iveys in 1938, the Mitchells are only the second owners of this period gem. The couple has been in the home 18 years, completing several extensive renovations, each with a tasteful nod to the Georgian-style character of the home. A 3,000-square-foot indoor saltwater pool was added three years ago.

THE TOUR: Stepping into a grand foyer with hardwood parquet flooring and majestic staircase, visitors are instantly transported to an earlier era of grandeur and custom workmanship. Marble fireplaces, plaster mouldings, cathedral ceilings, velvet railings, and an original Aztec fresco are just some of the lavish features. Numerous windows provide a surprisingly bright and airy atmosphere for a home of this vintage—not to mention a magnificent view of the city sprawled out below. And as stunning as the new saltwater pool is, a number of one-of-kind features battle for admiration, including a basement boardroom that was once a dance hall, a games room outfitted with a 100-year-old snooker table, a grand dining room ideal for entertaining, and upstairs workout room with its own ensuite.

REASON FOR MOVING: Now that their children are grown, the Mitchells are looking to downsize.

PETENTIAL BUYER: Kim Mullanm, sales representative with Sutton Group-Select Realty Inc., says, "The ideal buyer will value the historic and architectural significance of the home, as well as its grandeur." MARK KEARNEY

Q I NOTICED TRIANGULAR BOXES HANGING IN THE TREES IN SPRINGBANK PARK THIS SUMMER. WHAT WERE THEY?

NOT TO BORE YOU, but the boxes were put there to lure emerald ash borers, those pesky critters than have been destroying ash trees across Southwestern Ontario. They were part of a cooperative project involving the city, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Canadian Forest Service, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Ivan Listar, London's urban forester, says a range of lures, including organic leaf compounds and pheromones (chemical substances released by animals) were placed inside the different coloured boxes and hung from ash trees in Springbank Park and 15 other locations around the city to try and determine the best way to lure the insidious insect. Listar says green and yellow boxes were used as the control in the experiment and contained no beckoning ingredient. The exterior of all boxes were coated with a sticky substance to capture the borers so that researchers could track which lure was most successful.

The triangular boxes were installed in early July and removed at the end of August for analysis, and the city expects detailed results by the winter. According to Listar, by the end of the summer there was no indication as to which method was most effective.

London was one of three municipalities deploying boxes—Hamilton and Norfolk County were also project participants. Listar says whichever method proves best will likely become a tool to aid in early detection of ash borers, an important part of the city's future integrated pest management program.

HAVE A CITY CONUNDRUM? SEND CITY SLEUTH QUESTIONS TO: editoriol@londoncitylife.ca

From left: Brenda Hall (WAYS), Sharon Lamb (Sharan's of Hyde Park), Tracy Cambridge (Rass Mayer Landan), Pamela Davis (David Findlay), Kim Miller (WAYS) and Sharan Lehman (Lifestyles Wamen's Wear)

FASHION

Couture for a cause

A stylish charity event celebrates Canadian fashion

FOR THE MANY NEEDY young people who turn to the Western Area Youth Services (WAYS) for support, high fashion is not a top priority. Each year, however, it's a fashion designer runway show that contributes much needed extra funding for the agency's programs.

"Support is especially needed during times of economic hardship when many troubled families and their youth experience more than usual stress," says Brenda Hall, WAYS executive director. Residential care, youth justice services, foster care, and community services for at-risk children, youth, and their families comprise WAYS' extensive safety net. The agency was founded in 1969. Four years ago, significant expansion through the acquisition of Community Homes Limited extended services to Chatham, Sarnia and Forest. There are now 12 facilities and 200 staff members.

The annual fashion show always features testimonials from young people who talk about how WAYS has helped them get back on their feet. "These testimonials are very inspiring and make every minute of the hard work that goes into preparing for the show worthwhile," says retailer Sharon Lehman of LifeStyles Women's Wear, a long-time supporter.

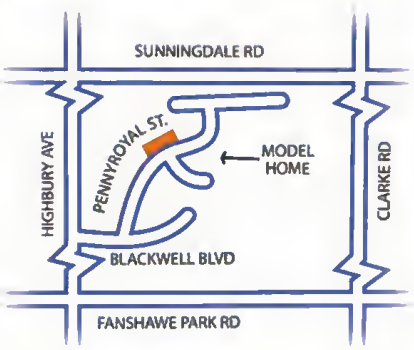
WAYS' (www.ways.on.ca) fundraising committee raised $3,500 at its first fashion show in 2001. Since then, the event has continued to grow. Last year, 300 people attended and turned over $22,600 to the youth agency.

This year, fundraising chair Kim Miller and her committee decided to mount a glamorous evening with a red-carpet entry at the London Convention Centre, as well as music and decor creating a big-city vibe. The goal is to raise more than $30,000 for WAYS from at least 400 guests, sponsorships, and a silent auction.

"We were looking for a fresh idea," Miller says of this year's theme, Celebrating Canadian Fashion Design. "It's important to recognize the incredible talent we have in this country." The show will include the work of Toronto's Linda Lundstrom, Montreal's Frank Lyman and Ross Mayer, and London's David MacDonnell. Outfits will be supplied by LifeStyles, as well as Sharon's of Hyde Park, Ross Mayer London and David Findlay. The four designers will attend the November 18 event.

"We have an enthusiastic following of fabulous women who support the show every year," Lehman adds. "I know they'll love meeting these designers and seeing their collections presented on the runway." MARY HATT

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME



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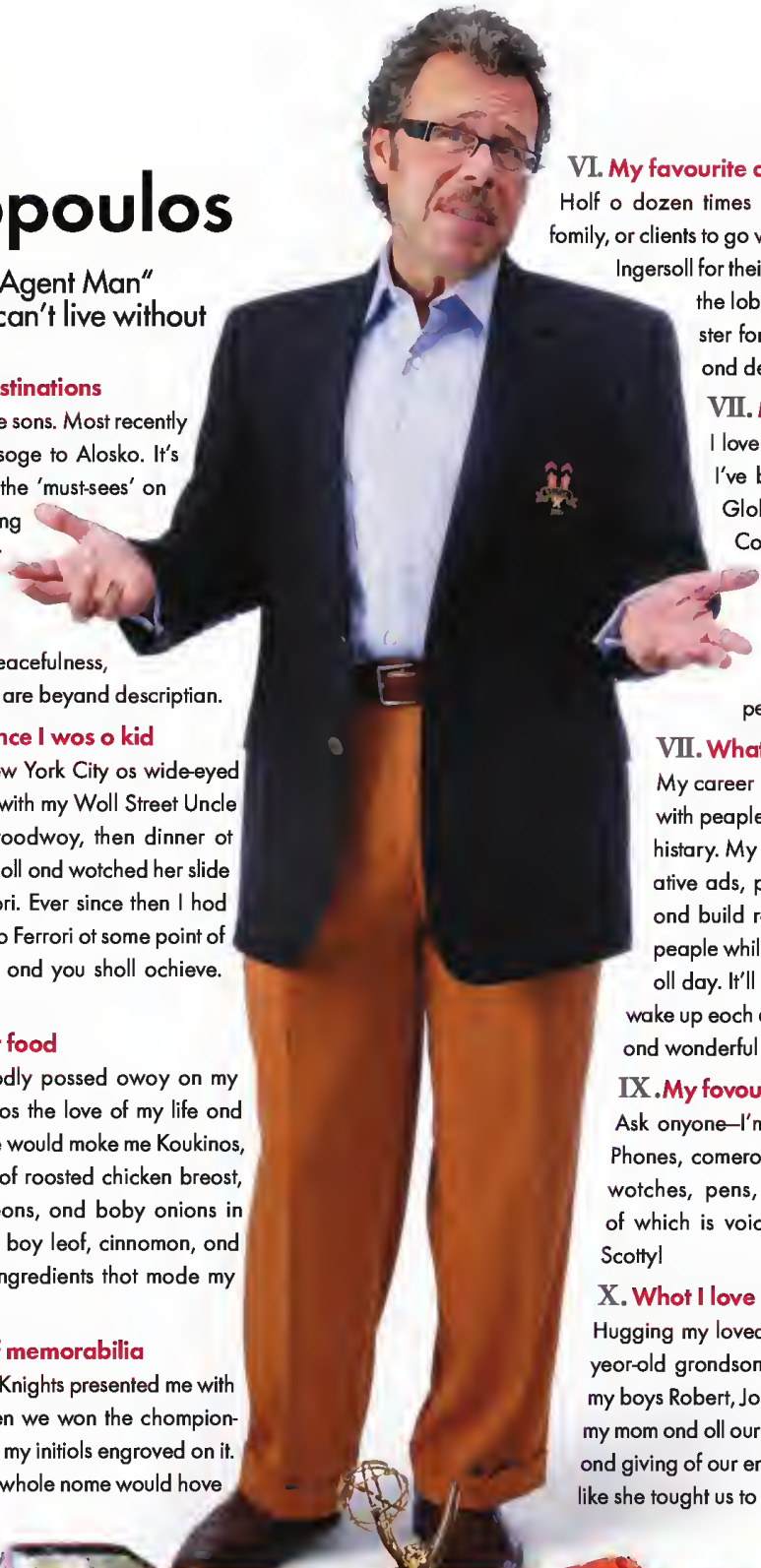
10 Things

George Georgopoulos

Real estate's "Secret Agent Man" shares 10 things he can't live without



I. My favourite travel destinations

I love to travel with my three sons. Most recently we cruised the Inside Passage to Alaska. It's so gratifying to check off the 'must-sees' on the bucket list while creating special memories with your loved ones.

II. Where I go to escape

Red Tail Golf Club. The peacefulness, privacy, and mystical aura are beyand descriptian.

III. What I've wanted since I was a kid

My parents sent me to New York City as wide-eyed 10-year-old to spend time with my Wall Street Uncle James. He took me to Broadway, then dinner at Sardis where I met Lucille Ball and watched her slide into a slick, sexy red Ferrari. Ever since then I had this obsession with getting a Ferrari at some point of my life. Believe, conceive, and you shall achieve. Finally did it at 50.

IV. My favourite comfort food

My mother Toula, who sadly passed away on my birthday this past April, was the love of my life and the best cook on earth. She would make me Koukinos, which is a deep-dish pan of roasted chicken breast, pototoes, green string beans, and baby onions in a tomato basil sauce with bay leaf, cinnamon, and some other super secret ingredients that made my mouth dance the Zorba.

V. My favourite piece of memorabilia

Dale Hunter of the London Knights presented me with a Memorial Cup ring when we won the championship in 2005. He even had my initials engraved on it. Such an honour. Doing my whole name would have meant some serious bling.

VI. My favourite decadent indulgence

Half a dozen times a year I convince friends, family, or clients to go with me to the Elmhurst Inn in Ingersoll for their monthly seafood buffet. All the lobster you can eat. I have lobster for an appetizer, main course and dessert. Holy cholesterol.

VII. My favourite hangout

I love attending red carpet events. I've been to the Emmys, Golden Globe Awards, Toronto and Cannes film festivals, premieres and galas and championship boxing events. There is this great energy around television, film, and business personalities.

VII. What I enjoy every day

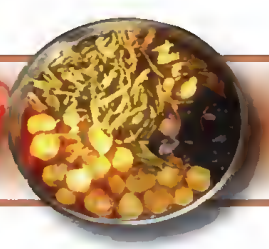
My career in real estate. I love dealing with people and becaming part af their history. My wark allaws me ta write creative ads, photagraph private settings, and build relatianships with wanderful people while not being stuck in an office all day. It'll be 30 years soan, and I still wake up each day meeting new challenges and wonderful people.

IX. My favourite piece of technology

Ask anyone—I'm a high-tech gadget freak. Phones, cameras, PDAs, computers, lasers, watches, pens, and anything 007, most of which is voice-activated. Beam me up, Scotty!

X. What I love most

Hugging my loved ones, especially my three-year-old grandson Tao, daughter Trinati, and my boys Robert, James and Justin. Dreaming of my mam and all aur happy times. Living life large and giving of our energy and time to others, just like she taught us to do.



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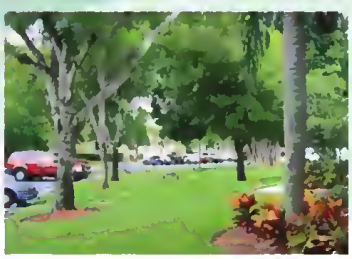

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INTERVIEW

And doula makes four

Focused on mothering the mother, Jill Ritchie answers the call for a special kind of guidance and comfort

WHILE MOST PEOPLE are familiar with midwives, the role of a professional doula—the word means "servant" in Greek—is less well known. Unlike midwives, doulas don't perform medical tests or assessments. They are certified, and provide physical and emotional support as well as informational guidance to mothers, their partners, and family members prior to labour through postpartum.

Jill Ritchie, who has been a doula for 11 years, opened Babeeze in Arms Doula Centre on Wellington Road South in 2005. She employs four doulas, and has a midwife coming on board in January to teach programs.

What exactly is a doula?

A doula is a professional woman who comes to provide one-to-one support to women—emotional, physical and educational—and helps them gather information they need to make informed decisions about their choices for pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. My role is to help them achieve a positive experience that will start their family off in the right direction.

What prompted you to open a doula centre?

Many doulas do this part-time. They come and meet people at home or in a café. We still offer one-on-one support, but because we are also a bricks-and-mortar location it lends a professional side to doulas. Having the centre brings awareness to the community that we're here and makes it easier for women who need us to find us. The centre also allows us to meet our goal by creating an environment where women can access all resources for pregnancy, birth, and postpartum.

Are there tangible benefits associated with a doula?

Combined data from five North America studies show that the presence of doulas in the birthing process reduced the caesarean rate by 50 per cent, resulted in 25 per cent shorter labours, 60 per cent reduction in epidural requests, and 30 per cent less requests for pain relievers. Other studies have shown that mothers tended to breastfeed longer, suffered less postpartum depression, and had greater satisfaction with their birth experience.

Are there other advantages?

Doulas give a woman someone to walk beside and a shoulder to lean on during this important and sometimes overwhelming time in their lives. SUZANNE BOLES

Jill Ritchie

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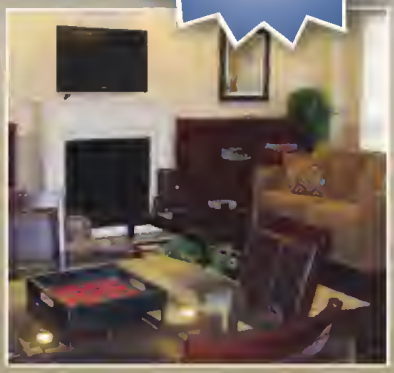
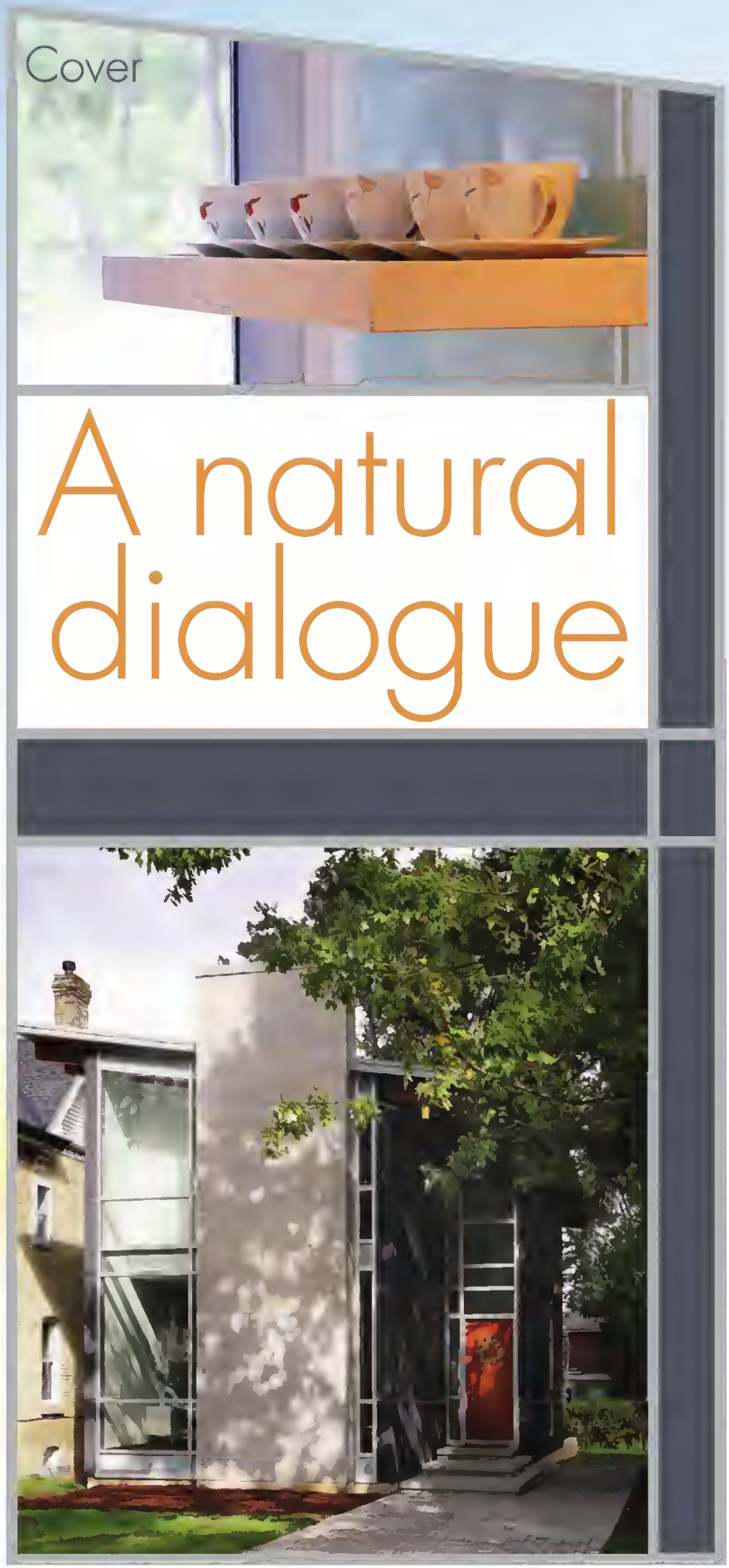




A natural dialogue

Adapting to its site, a modern home infused with light and new ideas strikes a perfect balance with its setting

BY **CHRISTOPHER CLARK**

DRIVING BY, YOU COULD almost miss it entirely. Almost. Whizzing by at 60 clicks, reaching for your coffee, you might not realize anything has changed on the street, save the nifty stone walkway running parallel along your trajectory. During the day, when its lights are off and the nearby trees blanket it with shade, you could almost miss it. Almost.

Walking by, however, you don't miss it. On foot, you have more time to consider what you've stumbled upon—the latest creation of architect Brad Skinner, whose mission is to dot London's otherwise bland suburban canvas with a splash of modernity and glitz.

Two years ago, high school sweethearts Kate and Lee Greenwood returned from their honeymoon in California with

more than the customary warm glow in their hearts. They came home with a vision for their first home.

"We wanted to live in Old South or Old North, and we started looking at houses before our wedding," recalls Lee, 29. "We hadn't found anything and then we went to California and realized how much we both love modern architecture. You see people there living in these modern houses, and it's the norm. They're everywhere."

A friend suggested they check out Skinner, the city's premiere designer of modern homes. His own onyx blue cube home has been an objection of fascination on Riverside Drive, near Wonderland Road, for the last few years, and he has built several thoroughly modern homes for clients in London and elsewhere.

Employing architect Brad Skinner, homeowners Kate and Lee Greenwood created a space that is modern, modest, and perfectly proportioned for its location

A wall of Algonquin limestone, a dominant feature on the home's exterior, is carried through to the dining room. The floor-to-ceiling windows stretch up two storeys

"He was excited and enthusiastic about the project right from the start," says Kate, 27. "He was very approachable, not pretentious at all."

After a few meetings, they knew they had found their designer. They also found a builder, John Wood of Brysonwood Homes. Next up: a lot. So they picked one of the many empty lots in Old South and got started. Oh, except there aren't any empty lots in Old South, or Old North, or pretty much anywhere in the kind of neighbourhood where they wanted to build and live. What to do?

The answer was close to home, or at least close to Lee's childhood home on Baseline Road, where his parents, Mary and Chris, still live. Next to the familial home was a nifty piece of property, about 40 feet wide and 165 feet deep. Subdivided, it was the perfect spot for the young couple's dream home.

Hands up everyone who wants to live directly next door to their parents. How about next door to their in-laws? Kate?

"I love Lee's parents. That was never an issue," she says with a laugh. (Skinner says the reason there are virtually no windows on the sides of the house, close to the neighbours on both sides, is city bylaws, but maybe there's another more practical reason.)

So they had their lot and their designer. The next step was to dream, and Skinner helped them do that. They had the standard binder of ideas, ripped from home design magazines and copied from HGTV fare for months, but Skinner knocked them out with his ideas almost from the start. Although they met weekly for three months early in 2008, the discussions were mostly about smaller details. They loved his overall concept the moment they saw it.

Skinner started with the line of arching spruce trees on east side of the property. Not only did he keep them, he used them for inspiration. "I tried to relate the whole design to those trees. The trees and the houses on each side of the property, which is kind of narrow, actually."

And so the home is at once stunning and modest. It fits perfectly with the scale of the houses on either side, creating a bit of a step effect highlighted by its gently sloping roof. It is set well back from the road, in keeping with its surroundings. There is no garage jutting out like a misplaced boat house, organized down to the last hook and shelf by a hockey dad with obsessive-compulsive disorder.

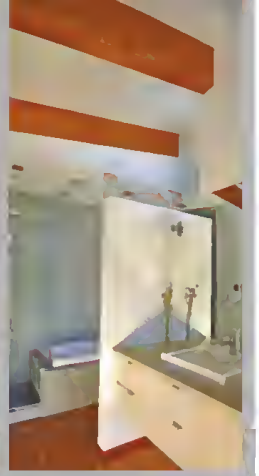
In fact, there is no garage at all, a choice the couple agrees was the most difficult of the many choices they made. In the end, they looked at the house as a piece of sculpture, and any way they looked at it, a garage was going to sully the look. Of course, the parents next door have a garage, so maybe that will come in handy if and when grandkids arrive on the scene with their wagons and trikes, scooters and bikes.

Truth be told, there is room around back for a stand-alone garage if they want to add it one day. For now, however, the focus is on what's inside, where the stunning but modest theme continues.

The main floor, which measures about 1,100 square feet, is divided every so subtly into three sections. Up front, the dining room is defined by wall-to-ceiling windows on either side of a column of Algonquin limestone that reaches up to the second floor and is the dominant feature of the home from outside. The smallish gas fireplace is almost dwarfed by the limestone. The mid-section is a galley kitchen, where a 12-foot long glossy, white island serves as an anchor and focal point. Modern appliances and clean lines define the cupboards, of which there are plenty.

Beyond the kitchen is the family room, the back wall made entirely of glass.

Visible from the front foyer, a set of floating cherry wood stairs leading to the second level stands as a focal point and helps define an overall dedication to clean lines and open space. Cherry wood flooring throughout lends a warm and comfortable tone



At just over 1,100 square feet, the main floor seamlessly runs from dining room to galley kitchen to a living space punctuated by a two-storey glass wall. Upstairs, Douglas fir beams run from side to side along the entire depth of the home

Along one wall is another fireplace and a TV, both low to the ground, just above a stainless steel hearth that punctuates the modern style of the room. The cherry floor throughout warms up the space.

The signature piece of the home is the set of floating cherry stairs that lead to the second level. They are visible from the front foyer through a wall of glass that reaches up two storeys. Throughout the home, there are notches cut from walls to allow light to knife into unexpected spaces, depending on the time of day.

The upstairs is comfortable but fairly compact. The master bedroom is at the back of the house above the family room, also bathed in light from floor-to-ceiling windows. The ensuite is modern but not large, with a separate bath and shower, both within eye and earshot of a 20-inch flat screen mounted on the wall.

Two guest (or future children's) bedrooms are rather basic, although, like the entire second level, they benefit from high ceilings and beautiful Douglas fir beams that run from side to side, four feet apart, the entire depth of the house. Like the master ensuite, the bathroom serving the two guest bedrooms is compact but efficient.

In the end, the house feels perfectly proportioned for its location. It's modern without being excessive, stylish without being snooty.

It took the Greenwoods a few months to start thinking of the place as their home. After moving in on March 1 this year, they were on vacation in the summer. "While we were away, I still had this feeling that we'd be going back to our apartment when we went home," Kate recalls. "When we came home from that trip, that's when it really felt like home to me." *lcl*

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Ristorante 2.0

Mint makes way for Abruzzi, bringing old-school Italian to the King Street strip

BY **CHRISTOPHER CLARK**

THE FLAGGING ECONOMY hasn't offered much in the way of side benefits, but fans of authentic Italian cuisine can thank macro-economic forces–at least in part–for the arrival last month of Abruzzi to King Street's restaurant row.

The restaurant takes the place of Mint, which was conceived during boom times and priced its meals accordingly. Owned by the same publicity-shy business partners, Abruzzi promises the best of Italy at a price point that doesn't induce choking.

"The idea was to bring prices down a bit and still give people a wonderful dining experience," says manager Karen Brown. "Mint was a bit higher end to be sure."

Brown, 42, is a familiar face to the city's restaurant regulars. She began her career

part-time at the Verandah Café and then went on to serve and manage local iconic establishments such as Oscar Taylor's, Blue Ginger, On the Fork, Black Trumpet, and Stratford's The Church. She also faced the daunting task of running Custom Cuisine Catering after her friend and mentor J.P. Baillargeon died.

After years managing established restaurants, she jumped at the chance to create a whole new eatery. And she's grateful to the owners for stepping back and letting her put her vision into action.

Dedicated to classic Italian fare from the south-central region, Abruzzi's menu is a compilation of authentic tradition, with an emphasis on antipasto, salads, pizza, and an extensive selection of regional pastas

"We were meeting to talk about how we could change the restaurant. One of the owners is from the Abruzzi region of Italy, so we started talking about doing an Italian restaurant. It was exciting to start from scratch, essentially."

One of Brown's first decisions was to hire Josie Pontarelli as head chef. A graduate of the Stratford Chef School, she married into her Italian heritage. "It's been a 15-year primer for me," she laughs.

She was a chef at On the Fork when Brown managed the restaurant. When ownership changed they went on to do their own things. Pontarelli started a wholesale baking business, selling desserts to restaurants for a while. When she got the invitation to run the kitchen at Abruzzi, she didn't hesitate.

"I started doing lots of research and came up with this menu."

The menu is a collection of authentic Italian dishes, all made in an old-school fashion with the best ingredients. The antipasto section features cured meats and olives, plenty of roasted veggies and some tasty cheeses. The salads–insalate–include a wonderful mixture of cantaloupe with proscuitto, figs, and almonds. There's also a calamari salad with fennel, oranges, and black olives.

There are five pizzas on the menu. None comes with a stuffed crust or chunks of canned pineapple. Instead we find a pie laden with smoked salmon, mascarpone, capers, and red onion. Another starts with mozzarella and gorgonzola, adding prosciutto, pear, and walnuts. A third comes with salami, mozzarella, tomato, black olives, and peppers.

Pastas are numerous and varied, including whole-wheat capellini with lemon caper sauce, spinach, and scallops. Like so many of the dishes, a shrimp, lemon, and pea risotto comes directly from the Abruzzi region.

"These are authentic dishes from that region. That's very important to us," Pontarelli says.

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The menu will change three or four times a year, as seasons dictate, but Brown says some items will remain regardless of the season. Even in the first few weeks of operation, a few customer favourites have emerged, one being Pontarelli's succulent gnocchi. "We're leaving that on the menu year-round," Brown pledges.

The menu is but one of the elements she brought together to create an Italian oasis. The exposed brick and stucco walls, funky chandeliers and casually elegant wooden floor all do their part to build atmosphere. So too does the stylish marble-top bar along with a varied collection of seating options–a mixture of banquettes, tables, and chairs seating about 50 all told. The music, need we say it, is festive Italian.

Plans call for a small patio out front next spring. There's not enough room for anything large, but the concept of a few tables, where people can sip their espresso–well, that's exactly the image Brown has worked so hard to create throughout the restaurant.

The reno work was handled by Brown's husband Scott, owner of Brownstone Homes, builder of some of the area's more interesting and funky houses. "He did all the design work, and it's great," she says admiringly.

Abruzzi is closed Sundays and open for lunch and dinner the rest of the week. It will be open later on weekends, but the hours are still in flux as Brown and her staff get a feel for what works. *LCL*

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AMAZING grace

A former bishop's residence and architectural jewel gets a new lease on life

BY **OTTE ROSENKRANTZ**

IN A CITY NOT KNOWN for having much success preserving its architectural heritage, the restoration of 90 Central Avenue is a remarkable accomplishment.

The result of an informal partnership of a small group of dedicated friends, 90 Central Avenue, the former residence of a series of bishops in the Roman Catholic Diocese of London, took a little over a year to complete and cost—all things considered—a not unreasonable $750,000 to restore. Even with the outlay of $625,000 to purchase the house and the accompanying acre of land located in the heart of London, the owners feel they have made a winning investment.

The partnership consists of Dr. John Demarco, his life partner Denis Campeau, long-time friend Peter Hayes, and Dr.

Ann Kirby. The driving force and main organizer behind the project was Denis Campeau.

"John and I do quite a bit of travelling," explains Campeau, "and as we were returning from a vacation in Mexico, having been away for quite a while, we talked about how ridiculous it was that we owned a large house out in the suburbs that stood empty every time we were away."

What they really wanted was to live in a smaller condo in a large, old house or loft in downtown London. "Perhaps we could have some friends own condos there too, we thought. That way we would live in a smaller home, and even when we were not there, someone else would be in the house and could look after things."

They contemplated other properties, including the old Bud Gowan men's clothing store on York Street, but when the historic residence of London's Catholic bishops came up for sale at the west end of Central Avenue, overlooking the Thames River between Harris and Gibbons parks, they jumped at the chance.

"At the time there was quite a bit of talk in the press about the church selling

the property because it needed the money," notes Hayes. "But given that we only paid $625,000 for the house, which sits on what amounts to seven city lots, that hardly seems plausible." One of the reasons the house went for a relative bargain, reasons Hayes, was the deteriorated state of the building.

The property was originally acquired in the 1850s by John Kent, who received a large riverfront land grant from the English Crown. According to Campeau, Kent's son Tom made a lot of his money selling off much of his father's original property. "He built the original house and eventually died there without any family." The house was then purchased by financier John Donnelley, who donated it to the Catholic Church in the 1920s, and Bishop Fallon took up residence.

A number of bishops lived in the residence in the intervening years, including Bishops Kidd, Cody, Carter, Sherlock, and most recently, Fabro. "But there were always other priests living here as well," says Campeau, "and secretaries and so on—it's not like the mansion was just home to one person."

And there were also frequent guests, including Cardinal Karol Józef Wojty, who would eventually become Pope John Paul II.

The partnership took possession of the house and property from the Diocese on August 1, 2008, and decided to have a housewarming party to celebrate. "The night of the party it poured rain, and we found we suddenly had water features in the house," Campeau remembers. "We had to put buckets in several rooms to catch the rain."

Renovated for over o yeor, the home now feotures three luxury condominiums on the first ond second levels, ond o single oportment on the third floor. The grond foyer features two lorge pointing by Mexicon ortist Ricordo Brown, including o depiction of the home's originol owner, John Kent

The fact that the roof was in bad repair came as no surprise. Before purchasing the house, the soon-to-be owners had inspected the building with long-time friend and contractor Pat Malloy of Duo Building Ltd. "Not much work had been done there in many years," recalls Hayes. "What the Diocese did, they did right, but they had owned the place for almost 100 years, and they were the first to tell you that the place needed work."

During the walk-through and the subsequent restoration, it was learned that the building had triple-brick walls and a dry basement. It had, as they say in the building trades, "good bones."

There was no doubt that the work and expense of the restoration were more than worth the effort. As Campeau notes, "The building was so well constructed that the original masonry and pointing did not have to be replaced. In fact, after 150 years, we did not have to replace a single brick. There was a certain artistry in the work in those days.

"We felt we could restore and protect this heritage building in a financially rewarding way," adds Campeau.

When the building was sold, most of the artifacts related to its church history were removed as part of the sale agreement, including two stained glass windows in the original chapel on the second floor. There were, however, some things that could not be removed.

"My aunt was Bishop Sherlock's housekeeper," says Campeau, "and in the course of purchasing the house we had heard from her and others that there might be some artwork under the wallpaper in the old chapel." As it turned out, the artwork was there—and they were frescoes. "There was actually very little damage to the walls themselves," says Hayes. "My brother, who has an artistic background, came from Toronto and did wonderful work restoring the frescoes." The frescoes now decorate the walls of Hayes' dining room, as does a painting of Bishop Fallon's coat of arms, discovered at the same time.

Much of what was in the building was saved and refurbished. "John (Demarco) and I lived here during the early renovations until January of this year when they started the tear-down," says Campeau. "We wanted to keep the great rooms and preserve the original floors as much as possible. Living in the place helped us to get a sense of how we should live in it once it was finished."

As with most restorations of a home this age, everything had to be redone, finished, or put in new. "Mechanically this is a new home, from the boiler and wiring to the sewers," says Campeau. "There are also new hydro and gas hook-ups." The roof is new, and there is a newly paved driveway and small parking lot.

The end result of the year-long project is a house with three luxury condominiums on the first and second levels, each uniquely reflecting the tastes of its owner, and one apartment on the third floor.

As Hayes points out, it is interesting to think that they are only the third owners in the estate's 150-year history. "So much work has been done to restore the integrity of the building and maintain its history."

And as Campeau rightly adds, "For the first time in its history, the house is now actually completed." *lcl*

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EVENT FEATURES

- Extensive collection of Robert Bateman art for sale
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- Earth Day Canada Presentation
- Presentation by Dr. Jeremy McNeil, Dept. of Biology at UWO
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HOMING IN

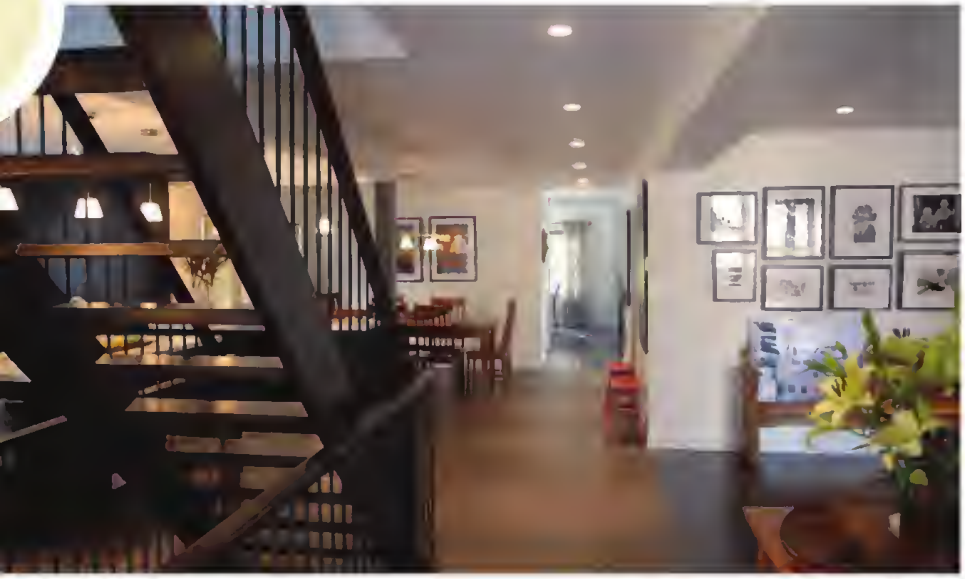
Special Advertising Section — London Citylife

Fall house & home resource guide

WITH SO MANY HOME interior products and services on the market, today's consumers have an infinite array of furnishings, finishes, colours, decorative elements and prices available. The sky's the limit, and there's really no reason for anyone to be stuck with a home decorating scheme that doesn't capture their own unique style and interests.

But whether you're decorating a single room, an entire floor or a whole house, defining one's personal style in a market stuffed full of possibilities can be an intimidating duty. To help, *London Citylife* presents Homing In Fall House & Home Resource Guide. Full of product ideas and suggestions from our city's leading home furnishing, design and service businesses, the following pages will help you express your unique taste and achieve your dream home.

Elmira Stove Works



Duo Building

Elmira Stove Works

Elmira Stove Works

The new Regency Horizon HZ42 contemporary gas fireplace is a highly stylized art form perfectly suited for today's modern homes. Clean lines crafted from unique materials in bold vibrant colours, cool stainless or sleek black finishes. Create a tranquil escape using spa stones or rev up the atmosphere with cascading cobalt blue crystals. Any room will be transformed into an incredible experience with the Regency Horizon gas fireplace, a perfect combination of function and beauty.

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Elmira Stove Works has been serving London and area for over 25 years. Joe and Jackie invite you to come in and view over 20 different gas units on display. All installers are certified.

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Duo Building

Renovations are the best way to extend the life cycle and value of your home. Trends aside, needs change over time—and most homes require assistance adapting to these needs.

Whether your home is broken up into many small rooms, or contains large amounts of wasted space, an effective way to renovate without adding space is called "right-sizing". Additions, or building a new home for that matter, may not be required if ample space can be found within your existing home.

An experienced renovator can help to find the positive attributes within your existing floor plan, and work with you to develop a plan for the whole home. Remember, your home is a tool for living and needs to be refined over time to remain efficient.

Duo's combined design/build services offer you the best way to realize any project. With our award-winning creativity and community service, you can see why we're London's "Renovator of the Year".

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HOMING IN

Nieman Market

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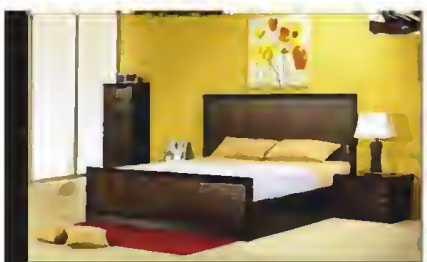

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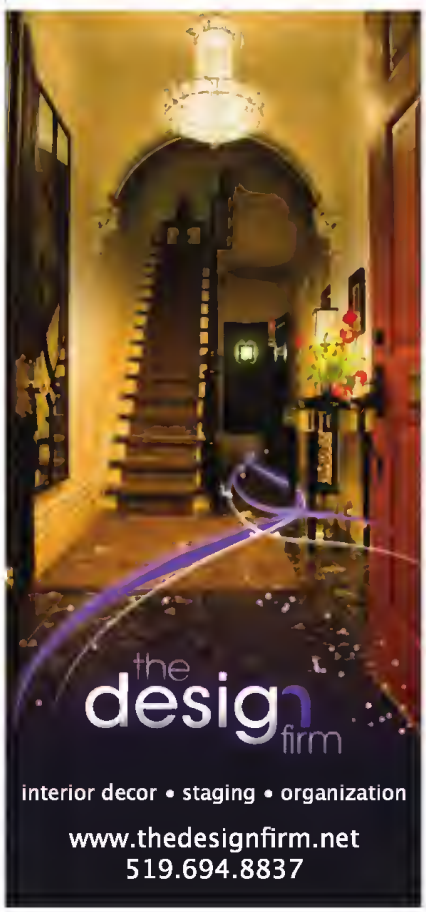

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HOMING IN

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Continental Cabinet

Continental Cabinet Company

The Continental Cabinet Company has earned its rightful place as one of those classic rags-to-riches stories clipped from the pages of entrepreneurial endeavour. When its president and owner, Bill Volk, came to Canada from Germany decades ago, only $200 padded his pocket. Today, he is owner and president of a cabinet-making company that generates millions in annual sales in one of the most competitive markets in Southwestern Ontario.

His secret to success? "Hard work—and I love woodworking," Bill matter-of-factly sums up.

He readily concedes, however, that years of experience, a dedicated staff and a firm commitment to customer satisfaction are the assets that have brought Continental Cabinet to the status it enjoys today as one of the province's premier woodworking enterprises.

Continental Cabinet has carved out a reputation for being able to handle some of the industry's most complex jobs. The firm's impressive list of commercial projects include the CN Tower, Roy Thompson Hall, Windsor Casino, Western Fair Raceway, John Labatt Centre, Princess Margaret Hospital and the University of Western Ontario. And that barely scratches the surface.

The company has also been the recipient of several industry awards. Such tributes from the construction industry have propelled Continental's reputation well beyond the continent. It has carried out projects as far away as Japan and has worked for such celebrities as actor Sean Connery (on his house in the Bahamas) and the Bacardi family, whose Caribbean based rum empire is almost legendary.

Whether its craftspeople are applying exacting skills, modern techniques, and flexible design concepts to commercial establishments or residential interiors, the Continental Cabinet Company has the expertise to handle any project.

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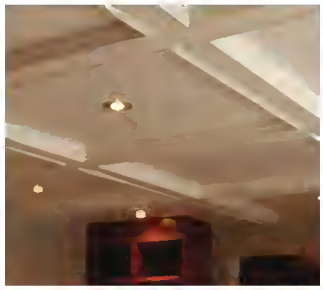

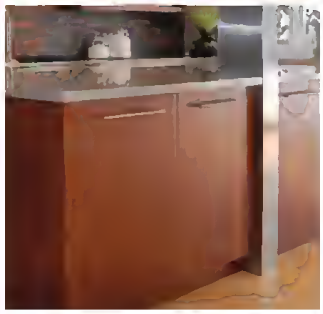

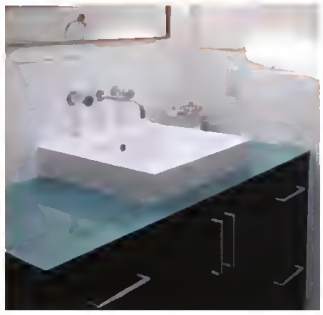

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october november

IT ISN'T WHAT EVERYONE WANTS to hear right now, and it may even throw a few people into a panic, but this issue of our calendar of events is packed full of Christmas-themed events! The 53rd annual Santa Claus parade takes place Nov. 14 and the theme this year is A Storybook Christmas. Don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item as volunteers will be collecting for the Landan Faod Bank. Other haliday favourites are alsa saan upan us. The lights ga an at Victaria Park an Navember 27, the Haliday Hame Taur celebrates its 20th year with a chance ta taur hames prafessianally decarated far the haliday seasan in early Navember and several arts venues have haliday-themed shaws including a special perfarmance af The Nutcracker at the Palace Theatre and the Gerald Fagan Singers' Christmas with Bach at Windermere on the Mount.

Bill Cosby

In other event news, legendary comedian/actor Bill Cosby is making an appearance at the John Labatt Centre in November and The Backyardigans are at Centennial Hall at the end of October.

For Halloween, there are haunted hayrides at Fanshawe Pioneer Village and Orchestra Landan is hasting a Hallaween disca special.

Dan't farget, The Landan Humane Saciety's Annual Christmas Pet Gifts Campaign kicks aff October 23 and runs until just befare Christmas. Baaths are ance again set up at variaus venues thraughaut the city selling pet-related gift items, and all praceeds ga directly ta animals living at the shelter. Far a list af dates and lacatians, call 519-451-0630 ar visit www.landanhumanesaciety.ca.

october 15
ONE ON ONE
Tany Scherman in canversatian with James Lahey, Museum Landan, 7:30 p.m., admissian by danatian, 519-661-0333, www.museumlandan.ca.

october 16-18, 22-25, 29-30
HAUNTED HAY RIDES
The Beast Within: A Tale Concerning Dr. Thamas Cream, A Play by Jim Schaefer, nat far children under age 10, Fanshawe Pianeer Village, 519-457-1296, www.fanshawepianeervillage.ca.

october 16
BRAZ FOR THE CAUSE GALA
Fundraiser far graup praviding shart-term financial aid far thase undergaing breast cancer treatment, Western Fairgraunds, wamen anly, 519-472-8368, www.brazfarthecause.cam.

october 17
HYDE PARK SCARECROW FEST
Parade, scavenger hunt, drawing and pumpkin carving cantests, church events, Village af Hyde Park, 519-850-2236, www.hydeparkratary.arg.

october 17
MATURE LIVING 50 PLUS EXPO
Exhibits, experts, seminars – all far the aver 50 crawd, Western Fairgraunds, 519-601-3008, www.westernfair.cam.

october 17-18
LONDON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SHOW
Opportunity for travelers to meet with industry prafessianals ta discaver new and exciting destinatians, fram upcaming annual halidays ta that ance-in-a-lifetime dream vacatian, Western Fairgraunds, 519-619-1018, www.londontravelshow.co.

october 19
LORD OF THE DANCE
At the John Labatt Centre. Tickets at JLC Box Office, 1-866-455-2849, www.jahnlabattcentre.cam.

october 19
MEL TILLIS
Live in cancert at Centennial Hall, 519 672-1967, www.centennialhall.landan.ca.

October 20
ROBERT BATEMAN ART SHOW
Extensive callectian af Bateman art far sale. Artist on-hand for persanalizatian, 2:30-9 p.m., Carausel Raam, Western Fairgraunds, 1-905-642-2279.

october 22
BURN LOUNGE
Bring yaur ald cassettes and CD's ta share and create new play lists while listening ta live indie-falk music, Museum Landan, 7:30 p.m., admissian by danatian, 519-661-0333, www.museumlandan.ca.

october 22
THE WIGGLES GO BANANAS
Live at the John Labatt Centre. Tickets at JLC Box Office, 1-866-455-2849, www.jahnlabattcentre.cam.

october 22-25
CEREMONIAL OBJECTS FOR THE JEWISH HOME SHOW AND SALE
A sale af warks by mare than sixty artists fram acrass Canada as well as a heritage display af ceremanial Jewish items and a display af mezzuzath, Or Shalam Synagagua, 519-672-2298, www.arsholamjudaica.ca.

october 23
METRIC
In cancert at Centennial Hall with special guests The Stills, 519 672-1967, www.centennialhall.landan.ca.

october 23-25
LIBRARY BOOK SALE
Annual Friends af the Landan Public Library baak sale, Western Fairgraunds, 519-661-2448, www.landanpubliclibrary.ca.

october 23-25
LONDON FALL ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW
31st annual shaw featuring unique arts and craft items, Western Fairgraunds, 519-679-1810, www.londancraftsshow.cam.

october 25
LAMB OF GOD
In cancert at John Labatt Centre. Tickets at JLC Box Office, 1-866-455-2849, www.jahnlabattcentre.cam.

october 29
FILM NIGHT
Watch ane af Canada's tap ten films fram TIFF, Pantypool and ask the lead and supparting actar questians afterwards, Museum Landan, 7:30 p.m., $10, 519-661-0333, www.museumlandan.ca.

october 29
JAY Z
In cancert at the John Labatt Centre. Tickets at JLC Box Office, 1-866-455-2849, www.jahnlabattcentre.cam.

october 31
THE BACKYARDIGANS
Sea Deep In Adventure taur live at Centennial Hall, 519 672-1967, www.centennialhall.landan.ca.

november 6-8
LONDON SHORT FILM SHOWCASE
Celebrating the talented creative minds af the independent short film genre, various venues, 519-282-3174, www.landanshartfilmshawcase.cam.

november 6-8
HOLIDAY HOME TOUR
Taur 6 hames that have been prafessianally decarated far the haliday seasan, 20th annual fundraiser far Thames Valley Children's Centre. Tearaam at Civic Garden Camplex. Preview gala Nav. 6, 519-685-8675, www.tvccauxiliary.ca.

november 8
BILL COSBY
Live at the John Labatt Centre. Tickets at JLC Box Office, 1-866-455-2849, www.johnlabattcentre.com.

november 12
PILLAR COMMUNITY INNOVATION AWARDS GALA
Celebrate the finalists and award recipients whose efforts are making our community better through innovation, leadership, impact and collaboration, London Convention Centre. 519-433-7876, www.pillarnonprofit.ca.

november 12
HOT TOPICS
Discussions on the latest cultural issues and themes by renowned guest speakers, Museum London, 7:30 p.m., admission by donation, 519-661-0333, www.museumlondon.ca.

november 12-15
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S ALEGRIA
Cirque du Soleil's internationally acclaimed show. Seven performances at the John Labatt Centre. Tickets at JLC Box Office, 1-866-455-2849, www.johnlabattcentre.com.

november 14
LONDON SANTA CLAUS PARADE
The 53rd Annual London Santa Claus Parade begins at 6 p.m. at Egerton St., runs west along Dundas St. to downtown. 2009 theme: A Storybook Christmas, 519-668-3576, www.londonsantaclausparade.ca.

November 18
DON HENLEY
In concert at the John Labatt Centre. Tickets at JLC Box Office, 1-866-455-2849, www.johnlabattcentre.com.

Don Henley

november 18
WAYS FUNDRAISING FASHION GALA
Celebrate the best in Canadian fashion design. All featured fashions available in London & designers on hand to talk about their work, London Convention Centre, $100 (tax receipt $45). Proceeds to WAYS (Western Area Youth Services), 519-672-8072, www.ways.on.ca.

november 19
POP CULTURE SPEAKER
Dr. Norma Coates speaks about music and pop culture, Museum London, 7:30 p.m., admission by donation, 519-661-0333, www.museumlondon.ca.

November 19
STONE TEMPLE PILOTS
In concert at the John Labatt Centre. Tickets at JLC Box Office, 1-866-455-2849, www.johnlabattcentre.com.

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What's On
october november

november 20-29
SAMKO & MIKO WAREHOUSE SALE
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november 21-22
GEM & MINERAL SHOW
Over 30 dealers, demonstrations and educational sessions, chance to pan for real Klondike gold, children's activities, Western Fairgrounds, 519-846-5836, www.gemandmineral.ca.

november 22
SUNDAYS AT ONE
Professor Lindsay Lambert's Magic Lantern lecture, Museum London, 1 p.m., admission by donation, 519-661-0333, www.museumlondon.ca.

november 25
POETRY LONDON READING
Governor General's Award winner Jacob Scheier and Brantford's Laureate John B. Lee read at London Branch Library, 7:30 p.m., free, 519-439-6240, www.poetrylondon.ca.

november 26
FILM NIGHT
Museum London screens both a feature and short film from Canada's top ten films from TIFF, 7:30 p.m., $10, 519-661-0333, www.museumlondon.ca.

beginning november 27
WINTER WONDERLAND/ LIGHTING OF LIGHTS
Trees lit with hundreds of lights, Christmas displays, free skating, nightly until new year. Official lighting of the lights Nov. 27, Victoria Park, 519-661-5000, www.london.ca.

november 28
AVENUE Q
Broadway's smash hit at the John Labatt Centre. Tickets at JLC Box Office, 1-866-455-2849, www.johnlabattcentre.com.

december 3-6
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FESTIVAL
Unique arts and craft items at this large annual sale, Western Fairgrounds, 519-679-1810, www.londoncraftsshow.com.

december 5
ANIMALERT BAZAAR
Annual fundraising event, various crafts and baked goods, Western Fairgrounds, 519-642-7732, www.animalert.ca.

Ron Sexsmith

MUSIC

AEOLIAN HALL
Upcoming concerts include Jimmy Bowskill (Oct. 17), Amanda Martinez (Oct. 22), Jack Richardson Music Awards CD Release (Oct. 24), Home County Fall Series Event Issa (Nov. 6), Sunfest Fall Series Event The Light of East CD Release Concert (Nov. 13), The Jake Langley Trio (Nov. 14), Love Guitar Quartet Holiday Concert (Nov. 20), Food Bank Fundraiser Home Grown & Blue (Nov. 21), Sunfest Fall Series Event Ron Sexsmith (Nov. 26), Vocal Jazz Group After Four Christmas CD Release (Nov. 27), George Harrison Remembered with Yuri Poole (Nov. 28), Sunfest Fall Series Event Sophie Milman (Dec. 1), Home County Fall Series Event Dala with special guest Adam Crossley (Dec. 4), Wassail (Dec. 5-6), 519-672-7950, www.aeolianhall.ca.

CUCKOO'S NEST FOLK CLUB
Their 16th season at Chaucer's Pub continues with Eileen McGann (Oct. 18) and Ande Neate's CD Release Concert for Crows, Rooks and Ravens (Nov. 29). Tickets available at Centennial Hall Box Office, Chapters Masonville, The Village Idiot, L'Atelier Grigorian and Chaucer's/Marienbad Restaurant, 519-473-2099, www.CuckoosNest.folk.on.ca.

ENCORE...THE CONCERT BAND
First concert of the season is Let's Give Thanks (Oct. 18). All concerts at Central Secondary School, 2 p.m. Tickets are available at Belle Air Music, L'Atelier Grigorian, Walters Music and at the door. 519-652-5913, www.encorethecancertband.ca.

FANSHAWE CHORUS LONDON/ GERALD FAGAN SINGERS
The 2009/10 season for these two large local chamber choirs begins with An Armed Man-Mass for Peace-Karl Jenkins

(Nov. 7, Centennial Hall, 7:30 p.m.), followed by a Christmas Celebration (Nov. 27, Centennial Hall, 7:30 p.m.) and Christmas with Bach (Nov. 29, Windermere on the Mount, 3 p.m.). Tickets available at Centennial Hall Box Office 519-672-1967, Ticket Hotline 519-433-9650, 1-866-0244-0762, www.lfscgfs.com.

KAREN SCHUESSLER SINGERS
The 2009/10 season begins with Splendor, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Franz Josef Haydn's death (Nov. 21, Wesley-Knox United Church, 8 p.m.). Tickets at Belle Air Music, Chapters Masonville, Tuckey Home Hardware or at the door, 519-858-3202, www.kssingers.isp.ca.

LONDON JAZZ SOCIETY
Monthly live jazz concerts include trumpeter Brian Dinsdale & The Toronto All Stars (Nov. 8) and Doug Keenan and his Jazz Band (Dec. 6). Call or check website for details. 519-433-4789, www.londonjazzsociety.ca.

LONDON CITY MUSIC THEATRE
Upcoming shows include Good Rockin' Tonight: The Sun Records Story (Oct. 16-18), The Rat Pack, part of the Memories of ... series (Nov. 4-21) and a Las Vegas Style Musical Revue of Hits from the 50's & 60's featuring The Satiniques (Nov. 13-14), 519-432-0888, www.londoncitymusictheatre.com.

LONDON MUSIC CLUB
Every Thursday is Electric Blues Jam and every Friday is Acoustyle Open Mic, both 9 p.m. Other shows include Juno winner Korb Lund (Oct. 27), June winners The Good Brothers (Oct. 28), 519-640-6996, www.londonmusicclub.com.

LONDON MUSIC HALL
Sonata Arctica (Oct. 15), 519-432-1107, www.londonmusichall.com.

LONDON PRO MUSICA CHOIR
The season begins with the holiday concert Jubilation (Nov. 30, Colborne Street United Church.). Tickets available through Orchestra London Box Office, 519-679-8778, www.londonpromusica.org.

MUSIC WESTERN
The Don Wright Faculty of Music at The University of Western Ontario presents a series of concerts performed by students, faculty and internationally renowned guest artists. All events are open to the public and free (unless otherwise noted). There are Ensemble Series concerts that include their Jazz Ensemble, UWO Singers, Symphonic Band and Early Music Studio Oct. 16, 18, 21, 23, 27, 28, Nov. 4, 12, 25, 27, 29, Dec. 1, 3, 4, Fridays at 12:30 concerts Oct. 16, 23 & 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, other Student Performances Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 10, Faculty Recitals on Nov. 6, 18, 22 and a Guest Recital Nov. 7. Paid concert events include Annual Choral Celebration at First St. Andrews Church (Nov. 1), Scenes from Musical Theatre & Opera (Nov. 19-21), The French Connection (Nov. 29). Most concerts are at von Kuster Hall, 519-661-3767, www.music.uwo.ca.

ORCHESTRA LONDON
The Ovation series presents classical symphonic masterpieces including Opening Night Romance (Oct. 17) and Italian Symphony (Nov. 28), the Cathedral series celebrates classical repertoire in the beautiful atmosphere of St. Paul's Cathedral with Beethoven's 8th (Oct. 21) and Faure's Requiem (Nov. 11), the Pops series features dazzling orchestral entertainment including Stratford Pops (Oct. 25) and Family Christmas Pops (Dec. 6) and Red Hot Weekends heat up with a variety of popular music including a Halloween Disco Special (Oct. 30) and Rik Emmett's Guitar Heroes (Nov. 13-14). The first Serenade Brunch Sunday at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn is String Serenade (Nov. 22), 519-679-8778, www.orchestralondon.ca.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL MUSIC PROGRAMS
There are several musical series offered at St Paul's Cathedral including Tuesday Noon Hour Organ Recitals. These run year round, every Tuesday, 12:15-12:45 p.m. They are free, no tickets required, 519-434-3225, www.stpaulscathedral.on.ca.

THEATRE

GRAND THEATRE
The 2009/10 mainstage season at the Grand begins with the cheeky comedy Dry Streak (Oct. 20-Nov. 7), followed by a family-oriented musical production just in time for the holidays, The Wizard of Oz (beginning Nov. 25). At the McManus stage is Pyassa, an exploration of issues surrounding the caste system in Calcutta, India (Oct. 21-24), 519-672-8800, 1-800-265-1593, www.grandtheatre.com.

PALACE THEATRE
The 2009/10 season continues with Dark of the Moon, a mythical and magical tale of fate and doomed romance (Oct. 23-31). Closer to Christmas, watch for their special holiday production of The Nutcracker. 519-432-1029, www.londoncommunityplayers.com.

PASSIONFOOL THEATRE COMPANY
Staging classic and contemporary works in the Black Box Theatre at The ARTS Project, Passionfool presents Shakespeare's The Tempest (Oct. 16-24) www.passionfool.com.

GALLERIES

MUSEUM LONDON
Present and upcoming exhibitions include James Lahey: Guido's Rhombus (ongoing), David Merritt: Shim (ongoing), Death (ongoing), A Lure of the Local (ongoing), A Brush with War: Canadian Art and Modern Conflict (ongoing), Modeling the World (beginning Oct. 3), Camera Works: In Living Colour (beginning Nov. 7). Admission by donation. Dates and shows can be changed without notice so please confirm 519-661-0333, www.museumlondon.ca.

MCINTOSH GALLERY
Upcoming exhibits include Michael Snow: Condensation, A Cave Story (in collaboration with LOLA Fest) & Robert Kelly: Minutia (until Nov. 1) and Andrew McPhail: All My Little Failures & Primary Foundations: Recent Purchases for the Collection (Nov. 5-Dec. 6). Talk Tuesdays are an informal way to meet other people interested in art and artists. Every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. 519-661-3181, www.mcintoshgallery.ca.

ART FOR KIDS

IMAGINATION STATION
Every Sunday from 1-3:45 p.m. Every talent is welcome and encouraged to grow through interactivity with provided materials, 519-661-0333, www.museumlondon.ca.

LONDON REGIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
Their popular Celebrations exhibit has returned: A look at the traditions of various cultural celebrations including Hanukkah, Eid-Al-Adha, Christmas, Diwali and Kwanzaa (beginning Oct. 30 and running into the new year). Other events include I Heart Art (until Oct. 18), Puppy Meet & Greet with ARF (Oct. 10, Nov. 14)), Therapy Dogs (Oct. 11, Nov. 8), Thanksgiving Day Family Fun (Oct. 11-12), Early Years Play Date: Salsa Tots (Oct. 13), National Science and Technology Week Flight Workshop (Oct. 17), Kitty Meet & Greet with ARF (Oct. 18, Nov. 8), Kennedy's Kridders (Oct. 24, Nov. 21), Telescope Workshop (Oct. 24), Family Halloween Party (Oct. 29), Mad Science Halloween Spooktacular (Oct. 31), Storytime With Susan Ross (Oct. 31), Be a Tree Workshop (Nov. 15), Early Years Play Date: Hands On Fun (Nov. 17), Tween Video Dance Party (Nov. 21), Puppetworx (Nov. 28). 519-434-5726, www.londonchildrensmuseum.ca.

ORCHESTRA LONDON'S KID'S CUSHION CONCERTS
Series for young children under 6, Cushion Concerts are 30-minute interactive introductions to music including Three Billy Goats Gruff & The Troll at the Beacock Branch library (Oct. 17), 519-679-8778, www.orchestralondon.ca.

ORIGINAL KIDS THEATRE
Their Junior Fall Playbill includes a couple of annual Halloween productions Monster Madness: The Musical (Oct. 24-31) and Scarecrows: The Play (Oct. 24-31) followed by Thoroughly Modern Millie Junior: The Musical (Nov. 9-15) and Cyber-More: The Play (Nov. 10-15). The Senior Fall Playbill also features a Halloween production Poe's Midnight Dreary (Oct. 25-30) followed by Snoopy: The Musical (Nov. 7-13), I Remember Mama (Nov. 20-22) and Shout: The Mod Musical (Nov. 27-Dec. 6). All shows at Spriet Family Theatre on the Mezzanine of Covent Garden Market. Tickets at Grand Theatre Box Office 519-672-8800, www.oktc.ca.

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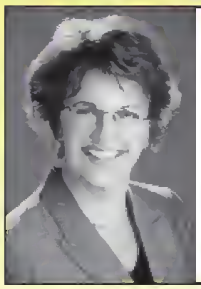
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My Passion

NAME: Carol Stewart
OCCUPATION: Project manager, Employment Sector Council London-Middlesex
FAMILY: Single, no children
PASSION: Environmental stewardship

MY NTEREST IN THE ENVIRONMENT goes back many generations, with natural historians on both sides and a grandfather who was an ornithologist. My father has always been intimately connected to his environment and has a real appreciation for all forms of life.

I WAS BORN IN JAMAICA, raised in Manitoba, and came to London to study geography at Western. As a grad student I worked on a reforestation project in rural India, travelling there six times for six to eight weeks at a time. What struck me was the range of resources trees provided the villagers, from fuel and fodder for animals to medicines.

FOR A FEW YEARS I taught geography courses at Western. I once gave my students some milkweed seeds—not a class assignment, no marks, just an offer of seeds for those who wanted to do some guerrilla gardening. They grew them on their balconies and in their back lanes; they were so enthusiastic!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT I would work in an area related to the environment, but it's clear you can still be involved on a number of levels without it being a full-time job. I sit on the city's Environmental & Ecological Advisory Committee, which offers technical advice to the city on natural areas and environmental features. I'm always learning from this group, and I've enjoyed connecting with people who share my interest.

ONE EXCITING INITIATIVE that ReForest London undertook this year was the Amazing Tree Quest. It got people telling their stories and celebrating their favourite trees. It helped people realize they don't have to formally join a committee to get involved in the stewardship of our trees and the local environment.

INTERVIEW BY KYM WOLFE

All-inclusive means everything to us. What does it mean to you?

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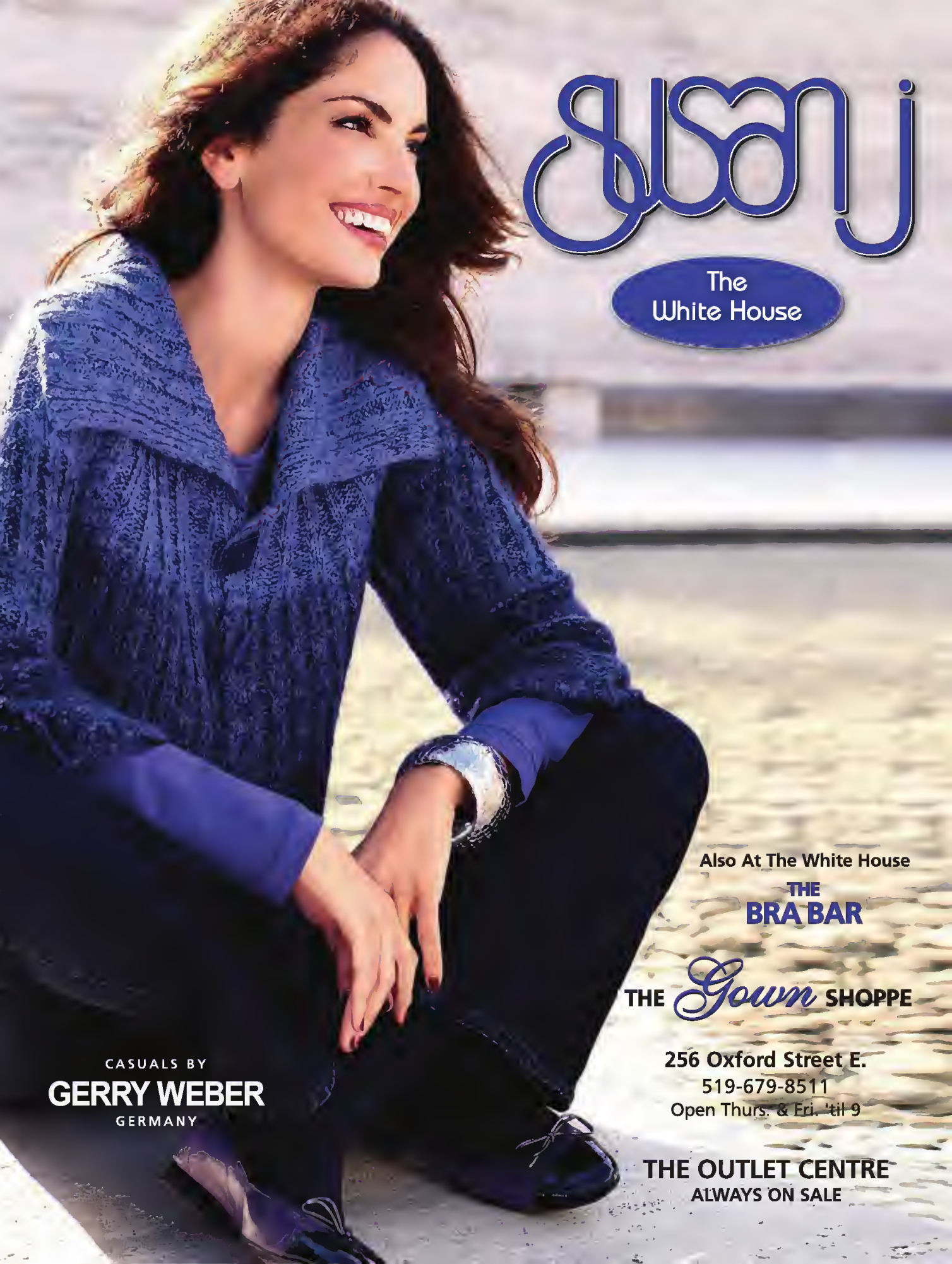
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